Train Accidents

26. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of rail accidents since the beginning of April, 1991;

(b) what is the estimated loss of life and property as a consequence thereof;

(c) what is the estimated loss suffered by the Railways as a result of these mishaps;

(d) what is the estimated amount of compensation paid to the victims of these accidents;

(e) what are the causes of these rail accidents according to the inquiry conducted by Government; and

(f) what action has been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) There were 134 train accidents on Indian Railways during April—June 1991. 41 persons—one of whom was a train passenger—lost their lives in these accidents and the cost of damage to railway property has been estimated at Rs. 5.21 crores.

(d) Compensation to the victims is awarded by the Bench of Railway Claims Tribunal in whose jurisdiction accident takes place and claims are settled as and when the awards are received.

(e) The accidents took place mainly due to failure of railway staff, equipment failure, negligence of road users and sabotage.

(f) Some of the important steps taken to reduce the accidents are:—

(i) induction of technical devices to aid the human element.

(ii) intensive and frequent inspections of sensitive installations.

(iii) monitoring the performance of the staff of critical safety categories such as drivers, guards, station masters, etc.

(iv) intensive training, including psychological checks of staff in operational categories.

(v) surprise checks against carriage of inflammable/explosive material in passenger trains.

(vi) provision of whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs at the appoaches of unmanned level crossings and improving visibility for road users and train drivers.

Fury of Floods in Bihar

27. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of Bihar particularly its northern parts are ravaged by the fury of floods; and

(b) if so, what precautions Government have taken to save the State from floods in the ensuing monsoon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several structural measures have been taken to protect flood prone areas of North Bihar. However, emphasis now onwards is on flood proofing measures as they are more cost effective. A provision of Rs. 15 crores has been made during the current year under Central Sector.

12.00 NOON

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I want to raise an important issue regarding Cauvery water.